

Major changes planned for Christmas Parade

Big changes are in store for this year's Helensville Christmas parade, with the event on Saturday, December 6 to be rebranded as the 'Lions Helensville/Parakai Christmas Festival'.

The route it has followed for the past decades, with floats travelling from the Oikoumene yard in West Street, up Commercial Road then looping around Rimu, Makiri and Karaka streets before returning down Commercial Road to the start point, is to be done away with.

Instead, the 2014 parade will be one-way, starting at the same location and driving up Commercial Road as before, but then continuing on into Mill Road to finish at the reserve beside the Helensville Museum, where there will be entertainment and activities.

In previous years Commercial Road has been closed from 7am on parade day, which has been a source of contention for some in the business community. That road closure will be a thing of the past this year, with the road left open to traffic and normal parking allowed.

The parade will be managed under a 'rolling closure' system, with the roads out-of-use only as the parade travels through.

It's the first major shakeup to the parade route since Phil Southernwood, together with John Pyatt, founded the parade and its oversight group the Helensville Progressive

Association, in 1959.

Running the event has now come full circle with Phil Southernwood's daughter, Holly Ryan, called in for last year's 55th parade to manage the transition of running the event from the former Helensville District Business Association to the Helensville Lions Club.

Holly says a raft of competitions are proposed, including Christmas tree decorating at the museum, with trees on display for a week then returned to the entrant or given to deserving families - an opportunity she says for locals to decorate a tree which could bring joy to a less fortunate family.

"We hope trees will be donated by growers," says Holly.

There are also plans for decorated bikes and trikes at the Helensville War Memorial Hall courtyard, plus colouring competitions with entries displayed in local shop windows.

Musical entertainment in Creek Lane is envisaged, and shopping promotions will be held during the three hours before the parade starts at 12.30pm.

Finishing the parade at the Mill Road Reserve will help the day's celebrations better flow into the annual Carols in the Park, which will start with family entertainment at 3.30pm at Parakai Springs. Entrance to the pools will be just \$5 per person, with under 5's free, from 3pm.

Holly says sponsors are needed so cash prizes can be reintroduced for parade entries,



• Families line Commercial Road during this year's Christmas parade

plus small cash prizes for the various competitions. Volunteers are needed to help the day run smoothly - locals interested should contact Mike O'Neill, phone 420 6208 or email: michael.oneill@internet.co.nz.

Parade entry forms will be available from October.

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\$2.9m revamp for supermarket

Work on the \$2.9 million refurbishment at Helensville's Countdown supermarket is expected to be finished at the end of November.

"Since the supermarket opened in 2000, the community here in Helensville and what it needs from our store has grown considerably," says store manager Matt Boyle.

"The changes we're making both inside

and out will modernise the store and will include new chilled and frozen cabinets, a larger dairy fridge, an expanded seafood range, a new bulk foods offer, walk in beer fridge, brand new checkouts, and an upgraded entrance. Our service deli area will also be changing to become an expanded cabinet offer."

Matt says the work is being done in a way to minimise disruption for customers.

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editorial

You will have read on the front page about the changes planned for the Helensville Christmas parade. It's great to see developments of this sort. Rather than just resting on our laurels and risking the event stagnating, people are prepared to put some thought into things and take action to make a great family day even better.

I think the one-way route idea is fabulous; I have always thought it a little odd that we watch the parade trundle up Commercial Road, and then watch exactly the same parade again a half hour later. And linking it through to the museum, with more family activities at the reserve and leading on to the Parakai festivities, just makes sense.

My only concern is the plan for parking to be allowed in Commercial Road. I'm not sure how that will work - all those little kids who sit or stand on the curb could either have their view partially blocked by parked cars, or have to stand out on the street, closer to the parade vehicles. As the photo on the front page shows, the parking spaces are the popular place to stand to watch the parade.

Perhaps the parked cars could be moved an hour before the parade starts. Or maybe the organisers could look at still stopping parking only on one side of the road - there aren't many parking spaces on the War Memorial Hall side of the road anyway. What do you think?

Once again this month I had far too many articles to fit in the paper, so apologies to anyone who missed out. Never fear ... some great ones will appear next issue!

- Dave Addison, Editor

letters

Well planned 'residential growth' would be great for all but the 'few dedicated tree huggers', 'cannabis growers', or 'full-time WINZ clients'.

Current businesses would be able to upgrade and possibly expand their operations. New businesses would open up. Both resulting in greater employment opportunities. There would be more rates income, for us, the ratepayers, to be able to apply more pressure on council for increased services.

Improving 'life style' would be likened to a 'snow ball', ever increasing in size as it rolls down a mountain. It would just get better and better.

At this time my wife considers Helensville a 'frontier town', some where out past the Black Stump. I can not persuade her to move onto the small property I purchased there for our retirement, where I intended to spend my time fishing.

So please, please, 'promote a little progress'.

- Brian N.

Farming competition successes

Mitchel Hoare, grandson of South Head farmers Trevor and Jenny Holst and former Parakai farmers George and Glenn Hoare, has won the Young Shepherd of the Year award.

He will now represent New Zealand with fellow kiwi Alex Reekers at the World Young Shepherds Challenge final in Auvergne, France in September, competing against other young shepherds from England, Australia, Argentina, France, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Uruguay and Argentina.

Mitchel (19) of the Te Kuiti Young Farmers Club, is a senior cadet at Waipaoa Station. Along with the other contestants he was tested on practical skills as well as his knowledge of key issues affecting the sheep industry. He had to complete a written exam, a panel interview and hands-on challenges such as sheep shearing, negotiating a quad bike obstacle course, foot trimming and drenching.

The Young Shepherd competition ran alongside the ANZ Young Farmer Contest grand final at Lincoln University - which was won by Shelly Beach beef farmer David Kidd.

David was the first Northern Grand Finalist to take the title in the contest's 46 year history - something his father Richard, another local farmer, couldn't quite manage when he placed third in the 1984 Young Farmer competition.

David is a member of the Auckland City Young Farmers Club and is the Northern Regional chairman for New Zealand Young Farmers.

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Gallipoli anniversary timeline

The Kaipara Memorial RSA is to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli with a series of large timeline billboards.

When the series of nine, 60cm x 120cm boards is complete, they will be positioned at strategically located intervals from the museum in Mill Road to the RSA rooms at the War Memorial Hall in Commercial Road.

Each board will depict key World War I events leading up to Gallipoli, and will be installed at monthly intervals, starting with the anniversary of the outbreak of the war on August 4.

The first board will initially be mounted outside the RSA. When the second board goes on display that first one will be moved to the museum, and as each subsequent one is released, the previous one will be displayed at one of the locations along the timeline route.

At the time of writing sponsors had already been received for several of the boards, including Kaipara College, Harcourts, Helensville Caltex, builder Barry Wilson, and the museum. Locations and sponsors to cover the \$150 cost of each board were still being sought for the remaining timeline displays.

The boards have been designed in conjunction with Nick Roberts of Kaipara College, and RSA project co-ordinator Keith Cowper expects they will remain on display for 12 months.

After that, a permanent home will be sought for the timeline - most likely either outside the RSA or at the museum. Printed on vinyl and mounted on aluminium panels, they are expected to last for five to eight years. Smaller versions of the timeline boards will be displayed at next year's Helensville A&P Show.

Anyone wanting to sponsor a board can phone Keith on 021 0264 8531.



Chance to meet election candidates

A public meeting for candidates in the Helensville and Te Tai Tokerau electorates for the upcoming general election to have their say will be held on Monday, August 11.

Being convened by Helensville business woman Holly Ryan, it will start at 7.30pm at the Kumeu Baptist Church in Access Road, Kumeu.

All the major political parties have been invited to be represented by their candidates and up to two other party policy speakers.

Confirmed speakers were: Act - Phelan Pirrie; Conservative - Deborah Dougherty; Green - Kennedy Graham; Internet - Chris Yong (number 2 on their party list); Labour - Corie Haddock and Kelvin Davis (Te Tai Tokerau); Maori - Te Hira Paenga (Te Tai Tokerau); NZ First - Andrew Williams.

At the time of going to press no commitment had been received from the National Party, but it was hoped a representative would be attending.

Parties will also be able to set up stands in the church hall, with public welcome to attend from 6pm to chat casually.

Each candidate will have five minutes to talk, than answer written questions from the public, drawn for order. The meeting will end at 9pm, and those who want to can then return to the hall for informal discussion and refreshments.

Holly says the meeting will be tightly managed, with any interjectors removed after one warning. Questions may be answered by either the candidate or their party policy supporters.

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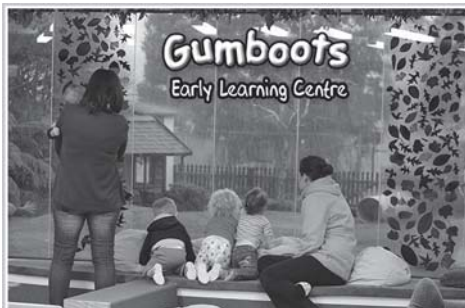
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Blue Light one of first priorities

New Helensville Police community constable Mandi Bell is keen to bring the Blue Light youth programme to our area.

Mandi, who took over her new role in July after almost 18 months as a front line officer here, is passionate about working with local youth and families.

Blue Light is a registered charity and community policing youth program that has run for more than 30 years in New Zealand.

It provides programs and activities for young people that are free from drugs, alcohol and violence. Those include Police Physical Competency challenges, life skills camps with the New Zealand Defence Force, leadership programmes, youth fishing days, visits to Rainbows End, and discos.

Blue Light aims to reduce the numbers of young people becoming offenders or victims of crime, and to build better relations between the police, young people, their parents and the community.

A well-attended initial meeting about the initiative was held in Helensville last month, and Mandi says another will be held in August. Initially Helensville would be run as a sub-committee of the Hibiscus Coast Blue Light organisation.

"There are so many people in our

A&P, museum hold annual meetings

The Helensville A&P Association held its AGM last month during the height of the storms - with half the meeting conducted by cellphone light when the power went off.

Around 50 people braved the conditions to attend the meeting, which for the first time in many years saw an election held for executive committee members.

Rick Croft was elected as president, and

community who are passionate about youth," says Mandi. "We need to all get together [as] we all have the same goals.

"There are really good services for youth in the community."

Mandi says she has "got lots of ideas" for her new community policing role.

As well as the Blue Light initiative, she is hoping to organise a community day by the end of this year themed around community safety and crime prevention.

It would most likely be held at Rautawhiri Park, although no details are yet confirmed. She expects many agencies would be involved, and suggests police dog handlers, drug dogs, scene of crime officers (think CSI) and the fire service as among the likely attractions.

Mandi has been a

police officer for 10 years, starting as a front line officer in Rotorua and then moving to Auckland central, where she was involved in team policing, the DNA squad, front line work, the strategic traffic unit and the youth action team. She moved to Helensville to live about two and a half years ago, attracted by the small town, rural - she grew up in a small farming community - and then began working here as a front line police officer a year later.

executive committee members elected were: Shona Addison, Jordan Bradly, Richard Bradly, Julie Croft, Anne Holst, Gaby Cornelius and Laura Glasson.

At the Helensville and District Historical Society's AGM John Smith and Lyn Millar were re-elected as president and secretary respectively. The existing committee was re-elected with the addition of Janet Cridland.



• New community constable Mandi Bell

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Consent sought for Parakai subdivision

A resource consent application for a 67-lot residential subdivision in Fordyce Road, Parakai has been lodged with Auckland Council.

The flat, almost rectangular 10.1ha property is at 56 Fordyce Road, adjacent to the Chic Gardens/Raabia Close subdivision. Feroz Khan of Fordyce Rd Development Ltd plans to split the land into 67 residential properties averaging 600sq.m.

Approximately 3.5ha of the site would be used for on-site stormwater and wastewater disposal.

Subdivision earthworks would include removal of topsoil and importing 5000cu.m. of fill to raise ground levels, construction of roads and tree removal.

The land is currently zoned future urban, and would need to be re-zoned as single dwelling. Currently the minimum subdivision size is 4ha, meaning the proposal is a non-complying activity.

If the subdivision gets the go-ahead, sections are likely to be priced around the \$260,000 mark. Homes built on those sections would be required to have water tanks of at least 5000 litres.

The application has been supported by letters from both Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and a local real estate agent, which

describes the lack of available bare sections in the Parakai area.

The application proposes a new road linking Parkhurst Road and Fordyce Road, plus a continuation of Chic Gardens to join up to that new road. Those roads would be vested in Auckland Council. A traffic impact assessment has found that traffic effects from the proposed development would be "less than minor". The subdivision would not feature any cul de sac roads.

The plan calls for a 'garden' style of planting in the subdivision, with mixed species and variations to give each street its own identity. Two of the sections will be available for the Council to purchase for use as reserves.

Feroz Khan initially proposed a subdivision on the site in 2007, but that was abandoned because Watercare couldn't provide services for the sections. The on-site stormwater and wastewater treatment of the current proposal circumvents that issue.

Submissions on the application close at 5pm on Thursday, August 7. A list of almost 40 documents relating to the consent application can be viewed on the council's website; full details of the application are also available at the Helensville Service Centre in Commercial Road.

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HIPPY mid-year celebration

South Kaipara HIPPY parents and their children braved wintery weather to celebrate the half-way mark in the HIPPY year.

At an event held in the Parakai School



• HIPPY parent Dana Keates with son Loughlan and nephew Adam making stuffed paper crabs

hall the parents and their children worked together on a range of fun activities including sewing pictures, scratch shape pictures, stuffed paper sea creatures, hat making, beading, lolly necklace making, loom bands and making butterfly mobiles from plastic milk bottles.

Many of the activities were based around the nine story books that HIPPY families receive and work with each year.

HIPPY families work together for 30 weeks each year for two years, during the child's pre-school year and their first year at school. Both children and parents enjoy the one-on-one interaction the programme provides.

For more information about the HIPPY programme phone coordinator Bernie Malizia on 420 7434.



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Big changes afoot for Men & Family Centre services

The Helensville Men & Family Centre will close the doors at its Gerald Stokes Ave building this month when its governing body, the South Kaipara Men's Trust, moves to Alison McKenzie House in Commercial Road on August 11.

The Trust has overseen the operation of the Men and Family Centre since it was established in 2004, and will continue to offer services and programmes at its new location alongside other local community agencies.

"Ongoing funding has become a major challenge for many community agencies," says South Kaipara Men's Trust board chairman Rob Ellis, of Parakai.

"There are now more and more community groups seeking funding from a limited funding pool," he says.

"The South Kaipara Men's Trust has to cut its cloth to suit its income, and this means the Trust will now move to smaller premises."

Rob emphasises the Trust wants to continue to serve the community, but in future it will do so by having contract staff who can take activities out to the community.

The Trust's board is reorganising its roles and services.

The new offices will house the staff who will continue to provide activities and services to men and their families in the South Kaipara community, but programmes will be taken out to the community rather than being based in-house as they were at the Men and Family Centre.

Rob says a meeting room is available for

use in Alison McKenzie House and staff would continue to welcome visitors at the new premises.

"We will welcome men and their families in the same way we always have - that will not change."

He says the goals of the Trust remain unchanged.



• Alison McKenzie House

"We want to work, as we always have, for the betterment of men, young men and their families in the South Kaipara district."

Activities such as Father and Sons days, boys' programmes, and liaising with boys encountering challenges at school will continue to be important.

"Activities such as Youth Services and Kai Takawaenga will be sustained provided sufficient funds continue to become available to the Trust," he says.

Rob says the Trust's board also wants to ensure continuation of counselling services.

"Staff will still be able to refer men to trained independent counsellors, and a room will be available for confidential counselling activities," he explains.

No decision has been made yet as to whether the Men & Family Centre name will be retained; the board will wait for community feedback before deciding.

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Street photography on show

An exhibition of 'street' photography by Vincent Young will be on display at the Helensville Art Centre in Karaka Street during August. Vincent's photos, all taken in Queen Street in Auckland over the past two years, document the people he has met while walking the pavement.

The main Art Kaipara members' exhibition will run at the centre from September 6 to 28.

Bookings are being taken for the Art Centre's August two-day ceramic workshop, from 10am to 2pm on Saturdays August 16 and 30.

Museum archive building

Completion of building work at the Helensville Museum's new archives building is underway. Renovation of the building started after receipt of a grant from the ASB Community Trust, but was held up for some months while the Historical Society sought extra funding to complete the task. Now a grant from the Paeroa Trust to the Society has enabled the work to continue.

The museum's administration office will also be sited in this building, freeing up two rooms in the old schoolhouse for more displays or other purposes.

Subsidised by Creative Communities, the workshops will cost \$40.

Book and pay at the Art Centre, or contact Pauline, phone 021 158 6859 or email: admins.artcentre@gmail.com.



• One of Vincent Young's works

medical centre notes

Having been through the four-yearly cycle of World Cup suffering of being an English football fan, I feel now would seem a good time to talk about blood pressure.

High blood pressure (hypertension) affects one in five New Zealanders, and often people have no symptoms to indicate they have it.

To explain blood pressure, think of the heart and the blood vessels as a plumbing system of pump and pipes. High blood pressure can enlarge and weaken the pump/heart, and damages the blood vessels, especially the small ones around the heart, eyes, brain and kidneys, and is an important risk factor for heart disease and strokes.

When the pump squeezes, the pressure rises (the top number we measure, systolic), when it relaxes the pressure drops (the bottom number, diastolic). Normal blood pressure varies from person to person, but less than 140/85 is normal, 160/90 borderline and greater than that is high. This needs to be tested over a few occasions to get a consistent reading as many things can affect blood pressure, such as stress, pain, or anxiety.

If you would like your blood pressure checked come and see our nurses; it should certainly be checked for men over 45 and women over 55, or earlier if there is family history.

- Dr Phillip Barter, Clinical Director



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Moto-X youngsters taste success

Two Kaipara College students competed at the Whangarei Motorcycle Club's inaugural Intermediate/Secondary Schools Motocross Championship late last month - and both won their classes.

Racing on the club's 2.4km winter sand track at Ruakaka, Year 9 student Joshua Thompson (13) won the 'Intermediate' 11-16 years 85cc-150cc class, while Year 12 student Anna Lawton took out the trophy in the 11-18 years girls 'all in' class.

Both are members of the Rodney Motorcycle Club and ride Honda CRF150R bikes. They were the only competitors from Kaipara College, racing in very wet and cold conditions against 77 other competitors from as far north as Kaitiāia and as far south as Gisborne.

Races were held over beginner (clubman), intermediate and expert classes in a range of age groups and engine sizes. Three races were held in each class.

The girls class was 'all in', which meant Anna was racing against girls of all ages, some on more powerful bikes than hers.

She has been riding three years, and came second in the Junior class at the New Zealand Women's Motocross Championship in December last year.

Joshua has also been for riding for about three years, but only moved up to the Honda CRF150 a few weeks ago,



• Anna Lawton & Joshua Thompson

having previously raced Mini-Moto-X and then an old 85cc 2-stroke bike.

They both competed at the New Zealand Miniature TT Championship at Kurataua, near Lake Taupo, earlier last month. They raced in the 13-16 years 85/150 cc class, with Anna placing fifth and Joshua one place behind in sixth.

At Ruakaka, Whangarei Boys High School won the overall top school in the competition. Their trophy will be back up for grabs next year, as the event is now planned to be held annually.



• Joshua in winning form at Ruakaka

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Kaukapakapa Scouts' annual Trivial Pursuits night

The Kaukapakapa Scout Group will hold its popular annual Trivial Pursuits evening at the Kaukapakapa Hall on Saturday, September 6. Money raised will go towards equipment for the Scout group.

Both the team with the best theme and the winning team will be recognised on the night, and there will be prizes, auctions and raffles.

Doors will open at 7pm with the contest starting half an hour later. Prize giving will be at 11pm. Tickets cost \$15 per person, and teams can have from eight to 12 members

Supper provided, there will be fundraising prices for beer and wine, and free drinks for nominated sober drivers. A 'Dial a Driver' option will also be available.

"No matter whether your IQ is 10 or 210, come with your sense of humour and give-it-a-go attitude," says Kerry Cottrill of the Kaukapakapa Scout Group committee.



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Celebrating 25 years this August!

The Helensville District Health Trust enters its 25th Silver Jubilee year of operation this August and we're holding a Big & Bold Ball to celebrate!

Get dressed up in your best 1980s ensemble and come and join us at the Helensville War Memorial Hall from 7pm on Saturday 16 August to celebrate and raise funds for the Helensville District Health Trust. Spot prizes, a silent auction and the crowning of Helensville's best

dressed King & Queen of the 80's will ensure a fun-filled night for all. Free mocktails on arrival for the sober drivers, BYO wine and beer and posh nibbles and a light supper will be served. DJ Josh Hetherington will spin 80's tunes all evening – so come and party like it's 1989.

More information and tickets at \$60 available from kuragw@xtra.co.nz or call the Trust on (09) 420 7878.



Helensville District Health Trust AGM

The next AGM will be held on the evening of Thursday 16 October 2014 at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai. All are welcome and encouraged to contact Angie Wright on 09 4207878 or awright@helensvillehealth.co.nz for more information.

Te Whare Oranga o Parakai Update

The Steering Committee for Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, the former Parakai Tavern, recently celebrated the news that \$200,000 in funds has been awarded to the project from ASB Community Trust. The project has already received some funding from SKYCity and is hopeful that other funding applications will also result favourably. This latest funding from ASB Community Trust will ensure building works can progress to ensure the new renovated facility can open as soon as possible for the community. The Steering Committee are working in conjunction with Unitec and an assigned architect to ensure designs and plans can get underway in the coming months.

We welcome our new Board Members

The Helensville District Health Trust welcomes **Rory MacGillycuddy** to its Board this month. Rory has been co opted for an 18 month term to assist and guide the Health Trust Board in a review and update its wider governance responsibilities and documentation. Rory lives in Woodhill and is an Associate Director at Auckland based advisory firm Howard & Company. His career has covered senior roles in Banking, private equity, early stage investing, start ups and consulting.

The Helensville Birthing Centre received an excellent response to its notice of pending Board vacancies. We are delighted to confirm the appointments of Paula Daye, Sue Derbyshire and Hilary Steedman. We look forward to introducing them to you complete with a brief profile on their local interests and experience in the next edition.

Attention all Growers, Producers and Farmers!

The South Kaipara Food Revolution is underway and we are pleased to bring you a series of talks and events at Whare Oranga o Parakai (the former Parakai Tavern) as part of the Food Revolution project.

A hui to mark the start of the South Kaipara Food Revolution is planned for Wednesday 13 August 2014 at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai from 6.30pm to 9pm. Producers and farmers from around the region are invited to the hui which will inform and provide opportunities for discussion and feedback around the idea of the South Kaipara Food Revolution. Come along and enjoy some light refreshments and meet other locals in your industry as we explore how we can optimise our production, distribution and market reach via the South Kaipara Food Revolution. Please contact jake@noodlehq.co.nz / 021 447534 for more information.

Also in August we launch the first of a series of Food Revolution talks. On Wednesday 20 August at Te Whare Oranga o Parakai, the 2014 winner of the National Grand Final of Young Farmer of the Year contest will take to the stage to talk about 'Why Farmers need their Communities, and why Communities need their Farmers'. David Kidd of Shelly Beach is excited to share his insights and tales from his own personal journey through the Young Farmer competition with other farmers (young and old) to ensure South Kaipara continues to encourage farming success. Tickets are just \$10 each and all proceeds will go towards the South Kaipara Food Revolution project and Te Whare Oranga o Parakai renovations. Come along at 6.30pm for a 7pm start and enjoy some light refreshments.

Please contact jake@noodlehq.co.nz or on 021 447534 for more information and to book tickets.

Kaipara logging & milling history

The Kaipara Harbour was the largest timber exporting port in New Zealand between 1860 and 1906; the main overseas market was Australia. After 1870 nearly all the timber was milled - prior to then it was logs or spars. From 1860 to 1880 Kaipara timber accounted for 80 percent by value of New Zealand's production. Exports peaked over the turn of the century.

These surprising facts, and more, were presented by Wayne Ryburn at the last of the 2014 Winter Lecture Series at Helensville in late July.

About 35 people gathered on a bleak afternoon at the Father Sakey Centre and were entertained by and informed about this interesting aspect of local history. The lecture was well illustrated by a Powerpoint image presentation.

Wayne divided the story of the mills into three sections: Southern Kaipara based at Helensville; the middle area - Albertland across from west to east coasts; and the Northern Wairoa area, from Te Kopuru, through Dargaville and further north. Of the three areas the most prolific in terms of milling and output was the Northern Wairoa area - one reason being the dense kauri forests in that area.


Boom and bust in the overseas markets affected the success of the mills, with slumps in the 1870s and late 1880s.

There was a period in Helensville between about 1905 and 1917 when there was no milling activity in the town until the re-siting of West's mill from the Hoteo to Helensville in 1917. That mill was large enough to cope with the few remaining kauri, and was active in milling other natives including kahikatea for butter boxes and fruit cases.


As native timber became scarcer the milling of pine took over. By 1977 Helensville was once again without a large mill, and local demands were met by smaller or portable sawmills.

Logs and sawn timber were transported from the Kaipara Harbour initially by sailing ship, and later by steamer. In 1900, 180 sailing ships were recorded through the harbour, of which 86 were cleared for overseas. 46 steamers entered, of which 24 went overseas. Logs were rafted to the mills on the harbour. West's boat, TSS The Minerva, was active from 1922 until the 1940s, after which logs and timber were transported by road or rail.

- Wynne HaySmith



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from the frontline

Firstly I would like to say hello to all *Helensville News* readers. I'm looking forward to my new role as Community Constable and hope to make some positive changes within the South Kaipara community. If you would like to discuss any matters relating to crime or crime prevention please phone me on 420 7627 or email me at: MBX062@police.govt.nz.

In the past few months there have been several thefts from vehicles along Commercial Road. These thefts have been occurring during peak times such as early morning and lunchtime.

Drivers - please remove all valuable items from view and lock your vehicles, even if you are just heading into a shop for a few minutes. This minimises the chance for opportunistic thieves to steal small but targeted valuables such as GPS units, cameras, cigarettes, cash/coins, mobile phones and tablets.

Leave your glove box open to show thieves that you have nothing of value to steal.

In the last few weeks we have had many residential incidents of vehicle crime. There has been a trend of thefts from vehicles in Parakai Avenue and in the streets surrounding Mangakura Road. Please lock your vehicles at all times and remove any items of value.

If you see any suspicious activity, please call 111 immediately.

- Mandi Bell, Community Constable



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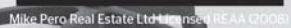
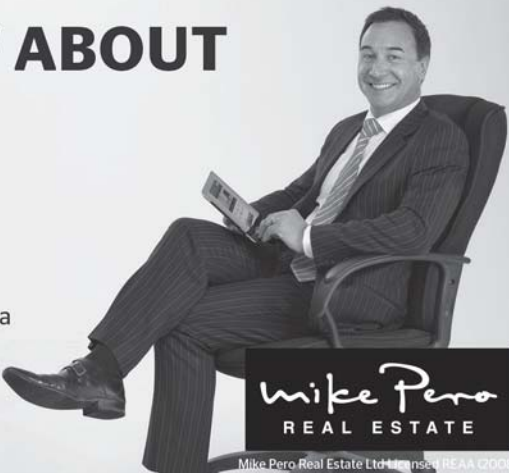
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Waka Ama teams race in Tahiti

After 18 months of planning and fundraising, 26 Kaipara College students, three staff and two families travelled to Tahiti a few weeks ago to compete in the annual Va'a (Waka Ama) competition.

Called Heiva, it is Tahiti's annual sporting and cultural competition and has been running for 132 years. Held over a six-week period, it incorporates song and dance competition, traditional games and competitions such as rock lifting and balancing, soccer and Va'a racing.

The Va'a racing was contested over two weekends. The under-16 category competed

over a 2600m course, while the under-19 and open ages competed over a 3400m course.

Kaipara College teams competed in V1, V3, V6 races, and the girls also combined with some local Tahitian competitors to form a V16 team. The girls' teams managed a number of creditable top-10 placings; while the under-19 boys were competitive their results couldn't match the girls.

In the individual V1 category, under-16 girls Sophie Fisher and Carissa Mansell-Sawyers finished 10th and 12th and under-19 girls Tara Mansell-Sawyers finished 14th. Under-19 boys Billy Bowman, Jarel Hemehema and Ryan Cooper finished 66th, 71st and 73rd respectively. The junior boys and girls also competed in a 21km



• Under-16 girls V1 competitor Carissa Mansell-Sawyers
- image courtesy Va'a News, Tahiti

marathon race, starting and finishing from Papeete. Both Kaipara College boys and girls teams got top-ten placings.

A non-racing highlight of the trip was swimming with sharks and stingrays.

Family History Month at Helensville Library

Locals wanting to learn how to go about researching their family histories have the chance to learn from experts later this month.

Helensville Library is putting on two free talks on August 20, and for the first time specialist staff from Auckland Libraries will be coming here as part of Family History Month.

The two talks will be held in the Helensville War Memorial hall. The first is titled 'Beginning your Family History' and will run from 11am to midday. The second talk is 'Research First World War Records' and will be held from 2pm to 3pm.

Bookings are recommended for both talks - phone 420 8163 to make a booking. Those attending will be able to ask specific questions of the presenters.



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You too can be 'royal'

For locals with dreams of becoming royalty, their chance is at hand.

Helensville District Health Trust is holding a 1980s-themed ball to celebrate its 25th birthday, and locals attending will be in with a chance to be crowned Helensville's 1980s King or Queen

Dubbed the 'Big & Bold 80's Ball', the

Horse measuring

The Helensville A&P Association's first horse measuring for the season is on Sunday, August 10, starting 9am at the Helensville showgrounds.

The Royal Agricultural Society has set new horse measuring rates for the season. They are:

- First measure - \$30
- Annual re-measure - \$20 (for horses with an existing height certificate)
- Young stock re-measure - \$10
- Life certificate - \$75
- All replacement certificates - \$75
- Special call-out measure - \$60.

There will be a notice listing the new prices on measuring days.

Subsequent dates this year are September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14. Measuring will also be held on Sundays January 18 and February 1 next year.

For more information about measuring email: info@helensvilleshowgrounds.co.nz.

event will be held at the Helensville War Memorial Hall on Saturday, August 16, starting at 7pm.

Tickets are \$60 per person, and guests will receive hors d'oeuvres on arrival plus what's described as a 'sumptuous' supper. Drinks will be BYO, although sober drivers will receive free non-alcoholic cocktails.

Guests will be able to dance to favourite 1980s tunes played by DJ Josh Hetherington.

There will be raffles, spot prizes and a silent auction as well as the 1980s dress competition.

Tickets can be purchased from ball organiser Kura Geere Watson, phone 420 7724 or email: kuragw@xtra.co.nz.

The Silver Jubilee event marks 25 years since the establishment of the Helensville District Health Trust in 1989.

The Trust is a community owned not for profit organisation which has charitable trust status. It's vision is for Helensville 'to be the healthiest rural community in NZ'.

It owns, and operates from, its Commercial Road site which includes the purpose-built Kaipara Medical Centre, the Helensville Birthing Centre, local offices and consulting rooms for Waitemata Health and the adjacent Alison McKenzie Community House.

Today the Trust is recognised in New Zealand as a leading and successful integrated rural health model.

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Walkway planting postponed



• Helensville Lions working bee members spreading the first load of mulch prior to planting

The community planting day at the Helensville Lions Club's new extension to the Riverside Heritage Walkway has been postponed until Saturday, September 6.

The planting day was to be held in late July, but very bad weather combined with delays in having mulch delivered meant the decision was made to put the event off for a few weeks.

Mulch for the site is being donated at a saving of thousands of dollars, but by the original planting day only 6m had been delivered. Lions club members used a small digger, shovels and wheelbarrows to spread that out.

Lion Dennis Cummings says the club hopes the rest of the mulch arrives before the new September date, and club members can spread it out in small working bees.

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Mobile devices set to make entrance at college

Students at Kaipara College are likely to be using mobile devices to help their learning next year - but only on a voluntary basis initially.

A 'WILD' team of teachers at Kaipara College is spending the next six months developing a plan for the introduction of mobile learning devices into the school.

That also includes developing 'digital citizenship' rules covering things such as security, copyright and ethics of use.

'WILD' is an acronym standing for 'Wireless Interactive Learning Devices' coined by college principal John Grant in his report to the Ministry of Education, 'WILD about Education'.

The report was the culmination of a term-long sabbatical John spent researching mobile learning devices in education, reading numerous reports and trial evaluations, and visiting schools which have already introduced mobile devices.

"Among the things I learned was that the devices themselves do not fix anything. It is the use they are put to that makes the difference," he says.

"The schools and school systems that seem to be doing best in this new world are those that know that the device is just a tool and that good teaching is still the answer to student success."

John says he learned that mobile devices, when used well, can "liven up" the learning experience for many students.

"They can open up specialist subjects in ways which teachers in classrooms have not been able to do before."

He says there is "some evidence" that use of mobile learning devices can lift achievement rates and improve student engagement.

"What we're looking at is the development of one of the cleverest learning tools we've ever seen," says John.

Following his sabbatical the college surveyed parents views on the issue.

"It was an effective survey with a 55 percent return," says John, "reflected across all year groups and genders."

Parents' biggest concerns were about appropriate use of devices, and security.

Sixty-three percent supported the introduction of mobile devices in the school on the condition their use was not essential for a grade - a promise John says the school would be making.

Just over half the parents want the use of devices to develop naturally, while 30 percent want the school to recommend devices for them to choose from.

The types of devices which would be allowed is still being considered, but John isn't convinced smart phones are suitable, in part because of their small size but also because of their telephone and texting capabilities - something which comes back to the digital citizenship issues.

While no decisions on use have yet been

finalised, John says it's likely they will be introduced in two stages, with voluntary use beginning in 2015. It is likely use would be restricted to school only, to avoid parents facing costly charges for home data use.



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PJ party raises \$260+

Six-year-old George Fiebig (right) does a turn as Spiderman as he tucks into cake during a student-organised pyjama day at Parakai School.

The school's students raised more than \$260 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust - a record gold coin donation for the school.

Senior students Madison Adolph, Blake Dobbin, Tyrone Brown and Rachel Scott organised and ran the fun-filled day with the support of teacher Sue Caltaux and principal Nick Neubert.

As well as the lunchtime PJ-wearing, a teddy bears' picnic was held for the junior students, with Year 7 and 8 students providing plates of home baking and entertainment for the junior school children.

The successful day looks likely to become an annual fundraiser for community trusts.



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HELENSVILLE AGLOW

Probably New Zealand's most prolific and accomplished Christian singer/songwriter, Jules Riding, will be guest speaker at the next Helensville Aglow meeting at 7.30pm on Friday, August 8 in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Jules has released 12 albums, three of which have gone gold, and won two NZ music awards. He performs throughout New Zealand and Australia. He will sing, play his guitar and share about his life, including when he had depression and how he was healed. Everyone is welcome and entry is by donation. For more information phone Marilyn Gray on 420 4346 or 027 290 3605.

CABAGM

The Helensville Citizens Advice Bureau holds its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, August 13 from 10am in the Helensville War Memorial Hall meeting room. Guest speaker Margaret Kawharu of Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara will talk about the Treaty of Waitangi settlement. There will be refreshments after the meeting. Everyone is welcome - "especially those who are thinking

of volunteering, [it's] a good opportunity to find out about the Citizens Advice Bureau," says the CAB's Anne Adams.

PONY CLUB ENROLMENT

Helensville Pony Club is holding an enrolment day at the Helensville showgrounds on Sunday, August 24 from 10am to 2pm. Enrolment and welcome documents can be downloaded from www.sportsground.co.nz/helensvillepc.

KKK MARKET

The next Kaukapakapa Village Market is on Sunday, August 17 from 9am to 1pm. It will include a book sale with proceeds going to the Scouts and the Kaukapakapa Volunteer Fire Service. Live music from Avon Hansen and the Ukulele Union, who have just returned from performing at the 44th Annual Ukulele Festival in Hawaii. The Kaukapakapa library will be open from 10am to 1pm. For more information or to book a stall phone Sarah on 0274 831 542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Helensville community Christmas lunch will be held again on Christmas Day in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. The lunch is provided for families in stressed situations, the elderly who may be on their own, or locals simply wanting to spend the day with others. An opportunity to register for the lunch will be available nearer the time.

Anyone wanting to help should contact organiser Raewyn Mercer, phone 021 1182 0470.

FIREWOOD

Peacemakers in Fordyce Road have firewood for sale as a fundraiser to go towards the community garden and Rongoa projects. Firewood is \$90m3 delivered and stacked in Helensville or Parakai, or \$70m3 if collected. Discounts are available for Community Card holders. Phone Andrew Connolly, 420 7043.

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Letters to the Editor: should be kept to around 250 words and may be edited as space dictates.



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